City of Poway

MICKEY CAFAGNA, Mayor BOB EMERY, Deputy Mayor JAY GOLDBY, Councilmember DON HIGGINSON, Councilmember BETTY REXFORD, Councilmember



July 12, 1999

Honorable Judge Wayne L. Peterson Presiding Judge of the Superior Court San Diego County Grand Jury 330 West Broadway, Suite 477 San Diego, CA 92101-3830

SUBJECT: City of Poway Response to the Grand Jury 1998-1999 Report Concerning

the Implementation of the Subregional Multiple Species Conservation

Program (MSCP).

Honorable Judge Peterson:

The City of Poway would like to thank the San Diego County Grand Jury for the opportunity to review and comment on the subject report. We appreciate and concur with the positive comments contained in the "Facts" and "Findings" sections of the report which pertain to Poway's participation in the subregional MSCP. Such participation is based on the City's implementation of the approved Poway Subarea Habitat Conservation Plan / Implementing Agreement (Poway HCP).

The Grand Jury report also includes "Recommendations" 99-101 and 99-102 which are applicable to the City of Poway. In response to report recommendation 99-101, the City is pleased to mention that it has been successfully implementing the Poway HCP for three years now. This implementation has enabled economic development on private property to continue while preserving sensitive plant and animal species and their habitats. This past effort was accomplished through ongoing coordination with the state and federal wildlife agencies that are responsible parties to the Poway HCP. We will continue to work with these agencies to fulfill our specific obligations under the Poway HCP toward the successful implementation of the MSCP.

The Grand Jury report recommendation 99-102 states that the jurisdictions participating in the MSCP should identify an existing organization, or create a new organization to determine an equitable means of funding the long-term management of MSCP lands, and to allocate such management funds.

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Honorable Judge Wayne L. Peterson July 12, 1999 Page 2

This report recommendation also states that this means of funding should not be reliant on the proposed local regional funding source, but that it should be funds from each participating jurisdiction based on acreage, population, and/or other criteria which the jurisdictions identify.

The approved Poway HCP includes specific management actions and identifies associated funding sources and obligations to ensure the long-term management of MSCP preserve lands within our jurisdiction. The City of Poway is willing to work with the other MSCP jurisdictions to identify an alternative means of long-term management funding, provided that Poway ultimately receives an equitable portion of such funds and that the funds contributed by Poway do not exceed the management funding obligations identified in the approved Poway HCP and companion Implementing Agreement.

Please contact Jim Nessel, Senior Planner at (858) 679-4256 should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

James L. Bowersox

City Manager

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